

SECTION: CERTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Eligibility Requirement

ITEM: *Women: Nutrition Assessment Requirements --
Determining Biochemical Nutrition Need*



Policy

At each certification and as part of ongoing preventive health care services, the Competent Professional Authority (CPA) shall assess whether a biochemical nutrition need exists. However, the lack of biochemical test results does not prevent enrollment/certification if at least one qualifying nutrition risk factor is determined at the time of certification. The participant shall be required to obtain and provide blood test results within 90 days of the certification if they do not provide them at the time of certification. The CPA shall evaluate blood test results including hemoglobin or hematocrit values from the most recent health check-up at the certification or when they become available. They shall obtain the information from:

- a referral form, or
- a medical or clinical record.

If the CPA obtains information from any source other than the WIC referral form, the CPA shall document the source in the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS) in “Individual Comments.”

Blood test results must meet the following conditions regardless of the age of such data:

- 1) must be reflective of a woman applicant’s category, meaning the test must have been taken for pregnant women during pregnancy and for postpartum or breastfeeding women following the end of pregnancy, and
- 2) the date and results of the blood tests must be recorded in ISIS in the Health Information screen.

Basis for policy

7 CFR 246.7(e) (Revised 12/16/99)

Determining need

Biochemical nutrition need is determined by evaluating the participant’s blood test results.

**Time frame
for
biochemical
data**

- For pregnant women, the blood test for anemia shall be performed during pregnancy.
- For postpartum or breastfeeding women, the blood test for anemia shall be performed after the end of pregnancy.
- For breastfeeding women who are 6-12 months postpartum, no blood test is necessary if the results from a test performed after the end of pregnancy is already documented in ISIS.

**When test
results are not
present at
certification**

For pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum women the blood test for anemia shall be performed or obtained from a health care provider according to established medical guidelines and periodicity. The blood test for anemia may be deferred for up to 90 days from the time of certification for applicants/participants who have at least one other qualifying nutritional risk factor present at the time of certification. When the blood test is not available at the time of certification the local agency staff shall place a “hold” in ISIS on the family’s records, and make an appropriate comment on the family comments screen, until the participant’s blood test results are obtained. The local agency may continue to issue food instruments according to a normal schedule (including double issuing food instruments).

**Assessment
and doc-
umentation**

Local agencies shall enter hemoglobin and/or hematocrit values into ISIS at the appropriate "Health Information" or "Lab Results" screen. ISIS will compare the blood test results to the standards (WPM Section 210-50.3) to determine if the biochemical indicator of nutrition need exists. As with any identified nutrition risk, staff shall:

- inform the woman and/or parent/guardian of the outcome and meaning of the blood test if the results indicate anemia;
- provide follow-up nutrition education, if appropriate;
- make adjustments in the food package, as appropriate; and
- make referrals to health care or social services, as appropriate.

Local agencies providing services at altitudes greater than or equal to 2,500 feet need to refer to WPM Section 210-50.3 for bloodwork altitude adjustments.
